

even a better bill, because they made their points about HIPC. I, too, made my points, because within the bill, I had put in some of the provisions. I talk about the restrictions on new loans to these countries.

I think all and all we have a good bill at this point, and I hope that we will get bipartisan support to send this message on over to the Senate where we can get on with this process of the passage of the year 2001 appropriation bill for foreign operations.

Mr. Chairman, I would once again like to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for her many courtesies; and I think, however, our balance sheet is a little slanted on my side, because I extended her more courtesies than she extended to me. Nevertheless, that is to be expected and not in the chauvinistic world. But in the Southern world, this is traditional, that Southern men especially are extremely courteous to our other staff colleagues.

I am happy to have had this opportunity during the last 6 years to work with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), to the members of our subcommittee.

I am happy that we have a bill now that I feel that can be supported in a bipartisan way. Even though I thought it was perfect before, I am optimistic that now the Senate will agree with me with the modifications that have been made that it is now a perfect bill, and there will be no reason for a conference; but, nevertheless, we will have to see about what happens there.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CALLAHAN. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I want to take this opportunity to commend the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN), the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, and while on occasion we may not have always agreed, we certainly have recognized his outstanding leadership in bringing the foreign operations bill to the floor.

This may be the last occasion in which he does it as chairman of the Foreign Ops Committee, and we have valued his hard work throughout the years. We want to thank his staff who have been doing such outstanding work and also the ranking minority Members, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), for their outstanding work in foreign operations.

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Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CALLAHAN. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate the gentleman from Alabama for yielding to me.

Mr. Chairman, I must say, while I had not intended to comment at all, it is difficult to let the time pass by without expressing my deep appreciation for the work that the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) has done with this subcommittee over the years. We had, to say the least, some rough times during this particular appropriations year. The leadership that the gentleman has shown has had a huge impact in our relations around the world, and I appreciate his being patient with me as I try to provide input. I would like to express my appreciation as well to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for her work and leadership on this very tough area.

Mr. Chairman, there is little doubt that very few of our constituents across the country are very excited about spending their taxpayer dollars on a thing called foreign assistance. The gentleman from Alabama has been able to provide a backdrop that involves questions, for example, that relate to the child welfare or development fund that have cast a different kind of shadow.

Indeed, the public is responding very positively to the positive role that we can play in strengthening democracy around the world as well as helping especially poor people and poor children around the world.

For the leadership and work that the gentleman from Alabama has done, I want him to know I very much appreciate his effort.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. Chairman, I might just convey to the audience that might be watching this that this is not an obituary. I am not going to die, and I am not going to go away. I am going to be back again next year because I have no opposition; and, as a result, I am going to be the chairman of another committee. I think whatever committee I get, it is going to be a committee whereby I will have some chips to pass around this House, and maybe it will not be as difficult as this has been.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, as this is the close of this bill, I rise to commend once again the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) for his distinguished leadership of our subcommittee.

As my colleagues can tell, we do not always agree. In fact, a good deal of the time we do not agree. But we always have good communication because that is really what is important for us to develop a bill.

Now, it is interesting to me that the gentleman from Alabama said at the start of this that he had developed a perfect bill. He saw no room for improvement, and it was a perfect bill. Now today, this afternoon, he is saying now we have a perfect bill, a more perfect bill. So we are getting there. Now we are going to get the most perfect bill as we go along in the process.

I say that, despite the tremendous regard that I have for the gentleman, and he knows that, I still am in opposition to the bill and would encourage a no vote on the part of my colleagues.

While we have made some progress in two very important areas, part of the funding that we need for debt relief and some additional funding for global aid, and those were significant, we certainly did not go the full distance on the debt relief, and there are many other deficiencies in funding in the bill.

So, as we take a step down this path, I want to urge my colleagues to support the President, to sustain a veto by voting no on the bill.

But back to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN). Perhaps the gentleman from Alabama will be a chairman, perhaps he will be a ranking member, that is a whole new world that is open to him, and he will know then what it is like. Again, hopefully he will receive the same treatment as ranking member that I have received from him.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, no doubt the gentlewoman will be the House Whip, so then there will be no question that neither one of us will be here in any position of authority.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman's optimism in that regard.

But I do want to say that our staffs, and we have acknowledged and recognized them at the beginning of the bill, have worked in a bipartisan fashion.

I would not be taking this time except for my great esteem that I have for the gentleman from Alabama. People should know what a gentleman he is, how open he is to our views, even though he does not always accept them, and that he sincerely represents the point of view that he brings to the table without guile. So we share that sincerity.

We come from completely different districts, mine are more globally oriented, although, from all I can see, in Mobile and looking South, I think the gentleman is going to have a hard time sustaining the idea that we should have a small international relations budget.

As my colleagues know, this is about humanitarian assistance. It is about export finance, and it is about our national security. So those are all very important initiatives and worthy of support.

But in any case, again, back to the gentleman from Alabama, he is great. He has done a great job over the last 6 years. It has been a pleasure to work with him. I think our staffs have worked very well together. Perhaps I will have more to say if we ever bring a conference report to the floor.

I want to also say a word about the distinguished gentleman from Florida